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*Report of*

Montana Committee

Midcentury White House Conference

on

Children and Youth

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The Honorable John W. Bonner, Governor, Honorary Chairman

Mary M. Condon, State Superintendent of Public Instruction,  
State Chairman

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*Report of*  
Montana Committee  
Midcentury White House Conference  
on  
Children and Youth

ORIGINAL LIST OF MEMBERS OF THE MONTANA STATE CONFERENCE  
ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR

|     |                                 |                                                     |
|-----|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| 1.  | *Miss Mary M. Condon (Chairman) | State Supt. of Public Instruction                   |
| 2.  | Miss Cathryn Jean Allen         | Executive Director, Girl Scout Council              |
| 3.  | *Miss K. Elizabeth Anderson     | Director of Health Education, State Board of Health |
| 4.  | *Mr. E. C. Attchinson           | County Boy Scout Council                            |
| 5.  | Gary Boyle                      | Governor of Boys' State, 1949                       |
| 6.  | Mrs. Paul Cannon                | P. T. A. Member                                     |
| 7.  | *Mrs. Dorothy Cassutt           | Director of Child Welfare Services                  |
| 8.  | *Miss Marie Clifford            | American Federation of Teachers                     |
| 9.  | *Mr. D. D. Cooper               | President of the M. E. A.                           |
| 10. | Mr. James Curtis                | Fraternal Order of Eagles                           |
| 11. | Mrs. H. W. Graeter              | State Pres., Mont. Fed. Women's Clubs               |
| 12. | *Mr. John L. Greenleaf          | American Legion                                     |
| 13. | Mr. Joe Guza                    | Police Dept.—Childrens Division                     |
| 14. | Mr. Barney Haley                | State Pres., Junior Chamber of Commerce             |
| 15. | *Mrs. Rhoda Hanson              | American Association of University Women            |
| 16. | Mr. Paul K. Harlow              | Education Committee                                 |
| 17. | Reverend R. J. Hartman          | Director, Youth Activities of Parochial Schools     |
| 18. | Donna Mae Heiser                | 1949 Governor of Girls' State                       |
| 19. | Honorable David F. James        | State Senator                                       |
| 20. | *Mrs. Chet Jones                | Deputy Grand Regent, Women of the Moose             |
| 21. | Mr. Leonard Kenfield            | Montana Farmers' Union                              |
| 22. | Dr. J. W. Maucker               | Dean of Education, Montana State University         |
| 23. | Mrs. Catharine C. McCarty       | Homemaker                                           |
| 24. | Mr. Robert H. McGuire           | V. F. W.—County Supt. of Schools                    |
| 25. | Dr. Frank L. McPhail            | Pres. Elect, Mont. Medical Assn.                    |
| 26. | Captain Forrest L. Mosely       | The Salvation Army                                  |
| 27. | Mr. Joseph A. Murray            | Loyal Order of Moose                                |
| 28. | Mr. Fred J. Nelson              | State Commander, Am. Vets                           |
| 29. | *Dr. Catherine Nutterville      | Mental Hygiene Clinic                               |
| 30. | *Mr. Carle F. O'Neil            | Montana Welfare Board                               |
| 31. | Mrs. E. O. Orleman              | American Legion Auxiliary                           |
| 32. | *Mrs. Dallas Reed               | Past President, State Parent Teachers Association   |
| 33. | Dr. Belle Richards              | Pediatrician                                        |
| 34. | Mr. Harry M. Ross               | State President of Parent Teachers Association      |
| 35. | Mrs. Lena Thompson              | Business Woman                                      |
| 36. | *Mr. Jack Toole                 | Rancher                                             |
| 37. | Richard Waterton                | President, High School Student Council              |
| 38. | Eunice Welch                    | Future Homemakers of Montana                        |
| 39. | Reverend Monroe Wilcox          | Methodist Church                                    |
| 40. | *Miss Amy Wold                  | Montana Extension Service                           |
| 41. | Mr. Luke Wright                 | Newspaperman, Great Falls Tribune                   |
| 42. | Mr. Walter H. Zimmerman         | City Recreation Director                            |

\* Asterisk indicates those on original committee who attended the conference in Washington, D. C.

Following are those who attended D. C. Conference but who are not on original committee:

|     |                                |                                                       |
|-----|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| 1.  | Mr. Edwin Grafton              | Administrator of Montana Children's Home and Hospital |
| 2.  | Miss Inga Hoem                 | High School Teacher                                   |
| 3.  | Miss Margaret Kohl             | Montana State College                                 |
| 4.  | Reverend John J. Mackin, J. J. | Represented Rev. R. J. Hartman                        |
| 5.  | Miss Alexis Mudd               | Student                                               |
| 6.  | Dr. Edward S. Murphy           | Montana Medical Association                           |
| 7.  | Mr. Oliver Peterson            | State N. E. A. Director                               |
| 8.  | Sister Providencia             | College of Education                                  |
| 9.  | Dr. Katherine Roy              | Dean of Home Economics                                |
| 10. | Mrs. Mildred Stolz             | Montana Farmers' Union                                |

STATE OF MONTANA  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
HELENA

JOHN W. BONNER, Governor

September 27th, 1950

Honorable Harry S. Truman  
The President of the United States  
Washington, D. C.

My Dear President Truman:

It gives me a great deal of pleasure to transmit, herewith, the Final Report of the 1950 Montana Conference on Children and Youth.

More than forty Montana public-spirited citizens, representing labor and industry, education, veterans organizations and, in fact, all Montana citizens, contributed of their time, effort and money to carry on this thorough and most successful study.

Several meetings of the entire Committee were held and additional sub-committees met in Helena and in other Montana cities in order to scan and carefully study all material and data collected. It is significant to note that Montana children and youth were ably represented on this Committee by high school students whose observations and comments contributed immeasurably to a factual report.

Montana is a large State, Mr. President, with vast distances separating its cities and towns. Despite this fact, Committee members traveled hundreds of miles, taking time away from their daily jobs, to attend meetings and gather material on a purely voluntary basis. This report, then, was made without financial help from any outside source and it represents the findings of men, women and youth who displayed a genuine interest in the welfare of Montana's future citizens and leaders.

I remand it to you with my sincere good wishes and I commend you for providing the inspiration of your personal interest and leadership in this great humanitarian endeavor.

With kindest regards,

(Signed)

JOHN W. BONNER,  
Governor.

STATE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION  
HELENA, MONTANA

September 27th, 1950

Honorable John W. Bonner  
Governor, State of Montana  
Helena, Montana

Dear Governor Bonner:

The Montana Midcentury Committee on Children and Youth submits the following report of its activities and recommendations for future action.

As Chairman of the Montana Committee, I am proud of the work of the group and deeply impressed with the diligence, unselfishness and cooperative spirit in which they have proceeded with the task before them.

Because of the short time involved, the report is not complete. For example, there is only cursory reference to our higher education institutions in the State. Certainly their contributions to children and youth are myriad and important. As the committee continues to function, as it is our hope to do, we will in time have set goals, through reporting procedures and community contacts, which the people of this State and Nation can, and will, strive to achieve for children and youth everywhere.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) MARY M. CONDON, State Superintendent  
of Public Instruction.  
Chairman, Montana Committee on  
Children and Youth.

# *1 Background*

## **A. Social Changes**

Montana, the third largest state in the Union, has a population of only 587,000 persons (1950)—only 4.0 per square mile. This is an increase of less than 30,000 in a ten-year period. Montana's population decreased between 1920 and 1930, and increased only slightly thereafter.

The 1950 census reveals that twenty counties gained in population and thirty-five lost, while one county, Sanders, remained exactly the same as in 1940. Seven towns and cities over one thousand population lost, while forty-one gained.

Generally speaking, the northwest section of Montana gained population, while the northeast and central portions lost. Only five counties in the eastern half of the State showed gains, namely, Yellowstone, Rosebud, Custer, Dawson, and Richland.

A special tabulation of population data now in progress at the Montana Experiment Station indicates that Montana has been a population exodus area since 1920. While there was also migration into the State during these last 30 years, the migration out of the State was greater. Migration studies of areas other than Montana have demonstrated that it is the youthful population that migrates in largest numbers, generally seeking economic opportunities. Montana is no exception as will be indicated by the special tabulation to which we referred above. Many of the problems arising in assistance to both children and the aged may be accounted for in part by this migration phenomenon.

It is also significant to note that the sex composition of the age group 15-24 is somewhat unbalanced. In this age group in 1940, there were 52,497 males compared with 49,817 females. This imbalance is greater than it was in 1920 for the age group 15-24. This evidence again substantiates a known fact, namely that in migration to cities, females move in larger numbers and at a somewhat earlier age than the males.

The rural population of Montana was 376,878 in 1920. It decreased to 356,570 in 1930; and decreased again to 347,921 by 1940. Between 1920 and 1940 this decrease took place almost entirely in the rural farm population.

The rural non-farm population (village and town up to 2,500) showed an increase from 151,489 in 1920 to 172,214 in 1940 and will perhaps be near that mark in 1950. It may be even higher. One important reason for the increase in village population, or its failure to decline between 1940 and 1950, is largely explained by the temporary or per-



Participation in student government gives valuable experiences in democratic processes to these young people of Great Falls Junior High School which helps them to develop a sense of responsibility and resourcefulness so basic to good citizenship.

manent residence of many farm families in towns and villages to bring their children nearer to schools. This fact contributes to the problems of family life, family living costs, and community organization including recreation in these towns and cities.

The urban population of Montana was 172,011 in 1920 (31.3% of the total), and 211,535 (or 37.8% of the total) in 1940. It is entirely probable that the increase in Montana's population between 1940 and 1950, plus the rural deficit during that period may be accounted for by an increase in the urban population of the State. Montana's larger cities are not particularly urban; Great Falls, Billings, and Butte being only 39,001, 31,724, and 32,904 respectively in 1950. Great Falls and Billings increased by about 30.3% and 36.4% respectively between 1940 and 1950; while Butte showed a decrease of about 11.3%.

It is clear that economic opportunities for youth, in Montana, are not to be found in striking numbers in agriculture, nor in urban and industrial areas of the State. Such opportunities are found largely in cities and industries outside the State. This has been particularly evident in the 1940-50 decade.

Another population fact not revealed in the census, but one that will continue to be present, has to do with the location and constant shifting of population attached to the work sites for the various dam and reservoir construction activities in the Upper Missouri River Basin. These dams and reservoirs are usually near smaller villages and towns, and occasionally in rural areas. A large proportion of the population at these new work sites are children of school age. Education, social services, and recreation facilities are, and will continue to be, meager. Libraries and public health facilities will be limited. The families and their children will be transient, moving from one location to another. Some of these children will spend most of their childhood in such transient communities, some moving between the several states in the Missouri Basin. These conditions will reflect themselves in sub-standard education and health services for youth—not greatly different from the results that grew out of such conditions prevailing in and about Fort Peck construction sites in the 30's.

The present situation will involve many more thousands of adults and children. As a result, however, of lessons learned in the construction areas in Montana (Fort Peck and others) services affecting children (health, education, housing, recreation) have been recognized and are being improved in current construction projects.

The population of the areas will continue to be transient and it is recognized that the problems generally associated with such populations can be only partially anticipated and alleviated. In this atomic era, decentralization may become a basic need of the whole American economy. The possibility of expanding the Missouri River Basin development gives rise to the prediction that these conditions may continue as social problems in this area for generations.

Like some of the other mountain states, Montana is half plains region and half mountain. In the former, distances are great, towns and

cities small, and much of the population lives on isolated farmsteads. In the mountain areas, population appears more sparse than it actually is. The population is more effectively concentrated in valleys, many of them irrigated, and even the farm population is within reach of more villages and city opportunities. Many of the industrial opportunities are in the mountainous part of the state.

The plains part of the state does have some irrigated areas, and more are being developed under the present Missouri Basin Development program. Even in the plains, some of the farm population has always been concentrated as irrigation has been developing. Nevertheless, some of the population will always be relatively isolated, away from towns and villages.

One of the emerging facts in Montana, both in the mountainous and plains areas, seems to be the need of a greater degree of integration between irrigated and dry-land areas. About the only way some of the rural population, especially children and youth, can have the advantages of a modern standard of living is to have more such integration—an arrangement whereby schools, library facilities, health programs, and social services are supported by such integrated effort.

There appears also to be a need to develop cooperative patterns for services adapted to the needs of children in Montana. Many cities of the nation find it inconvenient and think it unnecessary to develop town-county cooperation. Such cooperation needs special attention and special leadership if the children and youth services are to be made available to all on a democratic basis, and at a reasonable cost that can be supported. This refers to education on the elementary and secondary levels, to libraries, to recreation programs, to leisure activities of all types, to health facilities for youth and children, to hospital and medical care facilities, to youth training and re-training programs, and to other programs that involve the social well-being of youth. This will involve further study of the present organization, control and legal authority for the several programs and services on a state level, examples being the orphanage, the mental hospital, the probation procedure, the juvenile court, and the correctional institutions.

## **B. Outstanding Achievements**

In spite of the conditions resulting from size, topography, and sparse population, Montana has made progress, both legal and non-legal, in rendering services to youth and children. The following are illustrations:

### **1. Health**

Re-organizations of the State Board of Health giving lay citizens participation on the Board

Completion of state-wide hospital survey by the Hospital Survey Committee

Formation of a Hospital Construction Committee as a result of the above and completion of a state-wide hospital plan and par-



Health services and health education go hand in hand. The interest shown by these young citizens in a Flathead county rural school in their own and other's health should carry over into adult life.

participation in the federal hospital construction program resulting in 17 hospitals completed or in process of construction and others contemplated

Compulsory inspection and licensing of hospitals

Continuation of close cooperation between Medical, Dental, and Nursing Associations with the State Board of Health

Organization of a citizens state-wide health planning committee with an active program representing all interests and areas of the state

Establishment of local community and county health councils for about 25 of the 56 counties in the state

Establishment of a family health education program in the Agricultural Extension Service

Establishment of a regional and co-ordinated nurses' training program on a Bachelor of Science level, involving cooperation between Montana State College and several hospitals and other institutions of higher learning.

Participation in the Health Committee of the Great Plains Agricultural Advisory Council

Expansion of programs of service clubs and voluntary agencies such as heart, crippled children, cancer, and tuberculosis associations; and establishment of broader tuberculosis control program including a mobile X-ray unit

Establishment of a tuberculosis register

Establishment of a cancer register

Requirement of pre-marital and pre-natal blood tests for the detection of syphilis

Use of immune globulin for prophylaxis and modification of measles

Establishment of a Blood Bank by the American Red Cross, serving a large area of the State

Continued control of communicable diseases, including venereal diseases, with special emphasis on health protection for children

Continuation of the collection of vital statistics for study and research in disease control

Establishment of an active program for care of premature babies with the provision of 35 incubators in Montana hospitals

Continuation of study and research in reduction of maternal and infant mortality

Provision for a limited number of well-child conferences for infants and pre-school children

Continuation of registry of crippled children

Continuation of Crippled Children's Clinics in 14 centers in Montana with some financial assistance for treatment when needed

Institution of pilot program on rheumatic fever in Cascade County

Continuation and acceleration of school health program on co-operative basis co-ordinating health, education and the welfare of the whole child

Improvement of medical care and hospitalization of the indigent in some counties

Establishment of a Committee on Teacher Training for Health

Sponsorship of the first Physician-School Conference by the Montana Medical Association in cooperation with the offices of the State Department of Public Instruction and the State Board of Health

Continuation and acceleration of an over-all public health education program including provision of films, literature, and exhibits and the services of a lending library

Continuation of in-service education program for physicians, dentists, educators, welfare workers and public health personnel charged with services for children

Establishment of mobile dental unit for children in isolated areas, where there is no resident dentist

Establishment of prepayment hospital and medical care plans

Continuation and improvement of health-safety programs.

Continuation of review of plans and specifications by specialists in the State Board of Health of all new or remodelled school buildings relative to sanitation and health protection

Continuation of the testing of water supplies, public and private, for purity and chemical content

Continuation of the promotion of sanitation measures for sewage disposal and swimming pools

Continuation of state participation in administration of Federal Food and Drug Acts

Establishment of a Cerebral Palsy Center at Billings on a co-operative basis to demonstrate feasibility of training and educating children handicapped by cerebral palsy

Provision for hospitalization and medical care for persons afflicted with infantile paralysis

Establishment and inspection of school lunch programs

## **2. Education and Culture**

Passage of a school re-organization bill, establishing a minimum foundation program in elementary schools and calling for more State aid to education in equalizing the cost burden

Increased interest in and knowledge of school affairs by the people of Montana as evidenced by the work of Citizen Committees whose activities resulted in passage of improved school legislation

Increased participation in responsibility and activities in the work of the local and State Parent-Teacher Organizations through able leadership during the past decade

Correlation of effort of all services in the State Department of Public Instruction especially in the establishment of cooperative relationships between the Division of Vocational Education with all other divisions in the State Department of Public Instruction

Increased financial support on the basis of need for all education programs in Montana

Greater attention to the education of Indian children and more equitable distribution of funds for their education

Better routing of school buses and more safety and economy in their operation

Establishment of a voluntary minimum salary schedule for teachers

Improvement of teacher retirement provisions

Establishment of testing and guidance program for elementary and high schools

Establishment of a sight-saving library in the State Department of Public Instruction for elementary pupils

Continuation and improvement of the State Film Library

Establishment of facilities for the review and approval of plans for new and remodelled school buildings from the standpoint of educational needs

Review of prospective needs for school building program for next decade

Continuation and expansion of driver training programs in high schools

Institution of new programs to provide air-age education in schools

Continuation and clarification of physical education programs

Continuation and improvement in functional health teaching in all schools, elementary and high

Introduction of self-evaluation procedures for accrediting elementary schools in rural areas thus enhancing the cooperative effort of patrons, school board, teachers and children and resulting in an increased interest in schools and improvement of facilities

Modernization of requirements for state examinations for high school entrance, eliminating state examinations

Modernization of curriculum to prepare children not only for life but also for living

Cooperation between the State Department of Public Instruction and teachers training institutions to improve teacher training with emphasis on the child's needs

Extensive program of in-service teacher training through workshops, institutes, conferences, extension service, staff meetings and consultative services

Extension of cadet teacher training programs in the teacher training institutions of Montana

Authorization for granting high school equivalency diplomas to all veterans satisfactorily passing tests under the direction of

the high school supervisor with plans under way to extend this service to handicapped individuals over 21 years of age

Initiation of an education program in schools of all levels for conservation of human and natural resources

Increased requirements for superintendents of all schools to include training and experience in elementary education

Retention period of children in Montana schools throughout the 12 grades, one of the highest in the nation

Organization of a state reading council for improving the teaching of reading at all levels

Initiation of junior high school program on a limited scale using integrated type of class instruction, stressing communications and environment affecting mental and physical health

Continuation of rehabilitation services to individuals with physical or mental problems resulting in vocational handicaps. Services available include vocational counseling, guidance, medical examination, vocational training, physical restoration and job placement

Great attention to and participation in adult education programs such as veteran training and part-time adult vocational education classes

Further development and extension of educational and recreational training programs by the Farmers' Union, the Farm Bureau, and the Grange

State survey of trend in plans of high school graduates for vocational and academic types of education (1950)

Organization of the Montana Institute of the Arts to encourage the creative use of leisure time

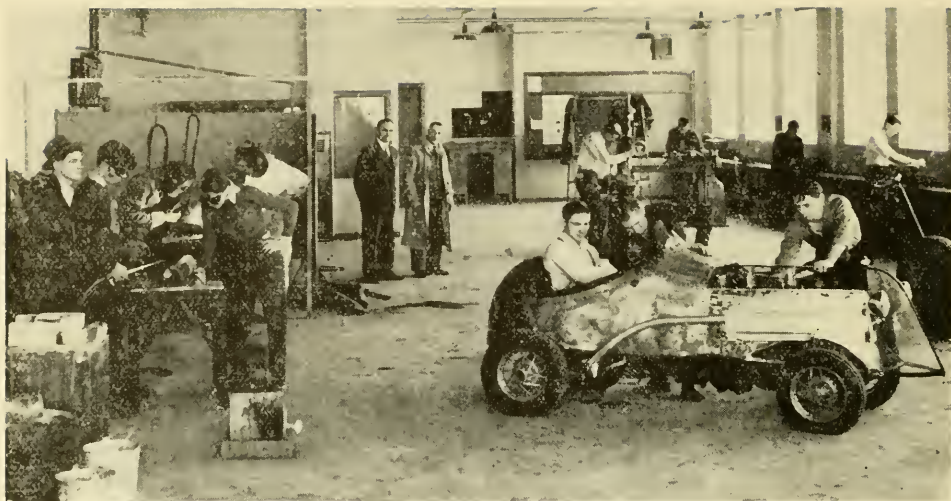
Sponsorship by the American Association of University Women of child study groups in sixteen branches; sponsorship of the Clare Tree Major productions for children in six cities; donations of children's books to public libraries in several cities

Establishment and participation in the Montana Study, a joint undertaking between the University of Montana and the Humanities Section of the Rockefeller Foundation to encourage local communities and small towns to study their problems and needs, and shape a program to deal with the problems

Expansion of the program of family life education and the addition of a full-time family life specialist in the Agricultural Extension Service

Continuation and expansion of the 4-H program for rural youth

Establishment of Boys' and Girls' State program by the American Legion to train youth to take their places in the home, church, school, community and world



Vocational education classes in Montana schools give students an opportunity to develop skills and attitudes toward developing economic efficiency as adults. These boys are taking the auto mechanics course in the Cut Bank schools.

Organization of a continuing conference on mobilization of education for national security in the present world crisis

### 3. Social Services for Children in Montana

Further implementation of the Public Welfare Act making the State Department of Public Welfare responsible for a program of care and protection of children

Provision for establishing, extending and strengthening Child Welfare Services throughout the state

Extension and improvement of social casework services to children in their own homes; to children who need substitute parental homes; to adoptive children; to dependent and neglected children; to those in danger of becoming delinquent; to children of unmarried mothers; to mentally and physically handicapped children; and to children in need of institutionalization

Provision of casework services to children coming before the courts

Protection of children from neglect, mistreatment, abandonment and unfair employment practices

Enforcing all laws pertaining to children and taking the initiative in all matters involving the welfare of children where adequate provision has not otherwise been made

Legal localization of welfare services with extended provision for casework services

Increased provision for aid to needy dependent children and aid to the needy blind

Development of more child welfare services with better trained personnel giving direct services to children and consultant services to agencies serving children

Licensing and inspecting maternity homes, infants' homes, foster homes, private institutions, and child placing agencies

Supervising interstate placement of children

Accepting guardianship or custody of children committed by the courts to the State Department of Public Welfare and arranging for their care in cooperation with County Departments of Public Welfare.

Assisting other departments, agencies, and institutions by performing services in conformity with the Public Welfare Act

Improvement in mental health facilities

Establishment of mental health clinics in five centers in the State by legislative action, financed by State and Federal funds

Establishment of a state mental health committee as a member of the national affiliate

Appointment of Governor's Interim Committee on Mental Health

Establishment of a Juvenile Delinquency Commission to study the causes and extent of Juvenile problems

#### **4. Church Groups**

Extension by all church groups of programs designed to meet the spiritual needs of children

Development of additional programs by churches, providing summer camps, and year-around recreational programs to meet general social needs of children

#### **5. Recreation**

Formation of an Inter-Agency Recreation Committee on the State level to co-ordinate the work of all groups and to improve and expand facilities

Continuation of Y. W. C. A. and Y. M. C. A. programs in several larger cities in Montana

Establishment of recreational programs in several cities, financed by school or city funds

Maintenance of other recreational facilities by the State Highway Department, the State Park Commission, church groups, civic clubs, farm groups, parent groups and others

## **6. Other Achievements**

Outlawing slot machines and other gambling devices by Supreme Court ruling

Re-organization of the Montana Conference of Social Welfare in 1948, after a period of inactivity during the war

Sponsorship of a specialized course at Montana State College for probation and police officers, in co-operation with the FBI and State Probationary Association

Establishment of several "Alcoholics Anonymous" groups in the state

## **C. Retrogressions in meeting the needs of children and youth**

War and post-war conditions interrupted most programs for the well-being of children throughout the state. The schools suffered from the loss of teachers, many of whom went into other work, and, because of limited school budgets, people of equal or better qualifications were not attracted to the teaching field. Schools were kept open by older teachers, "refreshed" at teacher training summer school programs. Classes were larger and little personalized attention was given to children of any age group.

Almost no planning was carried on to provide school facilities for the increasing school population. Little attention was given to the fact that the median age of the school population shifted so that greater facilities were needed at pre-school and early elementary level. School districts found themselves with high school facilities which with some rejuvenation would have met the needs of populations even larger than they were called upon to serve, while there was little or no room for pre-primary, primary, and elementary school population.

School building programs had to compete with other post-war building needs. Also they had to wait for community bond issues to be voted. Social lag was evidenced by the lack of awareness on the part of communities and, in some cases, school bond elections failed to pass. Hence school programs continue to be adversely affected by lack of physical facilities.

What has been said of regression in the quality of trained personnel in education holds true in social welfare, health, recreation, the church, and special services for exceptional and handicapped children.

In spite of the fact that social welfare workers have been encouraged to take training and in some cases have been offered stipends to assist them in their training programs, there are as yet few who take advantage of the possibility of placement in Montana. Hence the level of training is and will be depressed until salaries, supervision, and good personnel practices are assured. Isolation in this sparsely settled state is a factor which affects recruitment of young people with good possibilities to become successful workers. Likewise the lack of adequate

training facilities in the Colleges and Universities of the State causes young people to go into other states for such training. The result, all too often, is that they find employment at higher salaries than those offered by Montana, and do not return to the State.

Specialists trained for health services, for the church, for work with exceptional and handicapped children, and recreation personnel have suffered from the same conditions as those prevailing in education and social work. As a result, only sporadic programs are maintained where these "specialists" are available in any number.

For the most part, these programs, when they do exist, are available chiefly to urban children.

In addition these programs are hampered by the fact that the Legislature has, up to this time, failed to make adequate appropriations to attract highly trained and professionally acceptable personnel to Montana in sufficient numbers to meet the needs of the State.

It is apparent that there is a great lack of skilled artisans and craftsmen in Montana. False values have been placed on higher education to the exclusion of vocational education and self-improvement. Secondary and post-secondary education should be provided in schools equipped to meet the needs of students interested in becoming artisans and craftsmen.

#### **D. Conclusion**

There is a growing awareness throughout Montana of children's needs. Cooperation between child serving agencies and the general public has improved. Examples of this are the "Grass Roots Citizens Committee on Education;" the Health Planning Committees; and the emphasis on children's needs in such professional meetings as the Montana Conference on Social Welfare, and the Physician-School Conference. Whereas there is much left to be accomplished, this review of the achievements of the past decade encourages belief that action and study are meeting children's needs in Montana more adequately than at any previous time.

While all concerned with the well-being of children are working to improve conditions, at the same time they recognize that there are positive elements in Montana which provide a wholesome environment for healthy, happy childhood.

## 2 Progress

### A. Plan for Fact-Finding

The Governor's Committee on the Midcentury White House Conference on Children and Youth spent most of the time of the first two meetings at Helena, May 8, 1950 and June 19, 1950, discussing the needs of children and youth in Montana and reporting on existing facilities for meeting those needs. A questionnaire was developed and sent out to interested persons in all 56 counties. Its purpose was to guide the thinking of local groups relative to the needs of all children and to arouse their interest in the state-wide study that was being undertaken.

The third meeting was held at Billings on July 17, 1950. It was highlighted by a trip taken by the members of the meeting to all the Billings play centers. Later there was a panel of younger children, approximately 8 to 12 years old, who discussed their problems. This was followed by another group of high school students who defined their needs and suggested remedies with remarkable maturity.

Also at this meeting it was recognized that factual data must be gathered and compiled. Two committees, the executive committee and the Study Committee, were appointed by the chairman. Immediately the Study Committee began collecting and assembling data for this report.

The members of the Study Committee who were members of staffs of official agencies giving special services to children assembled data pertinent to this report from the files and fiscal reports of their agencies. Data came also from a vast number of child serving organizations throughout Montana.

The Study Committee held seven meetings at Helena and Great Falls to select, evaluate, interpret, and file the data, and later to compose this report. Also, the members worked independently between meetings, acquainting local lay groups and professional workers with the scope and purpose of the study and gathering and evaluating data.

Writing and editing this report was done by the Study Committee working as a unit. The population study and report is the work of Dr. Carl Kraenzel, Rural Sociologist at Montana State College at Bozeman.

The meetings of the Commission were held as follows:

Helena, May 8, 1950—State-wide representation

Helena, June 12, 1950—State-wide representation

Helena, June 16, 1950—State-wide representation

Billings, July 17, 1950—State-wide representation

Great Falls, August 21, 1950—State-wide representation

Personnel of the Governor's Committee on Children and Youth changed as the program developed and the meetings moved from city

to city; about half of the original membership was maintained, new members joining as the meetings were held in cities that were more convenient to them.

**B. On the basis of facts already collected or in process of collection, and in the considered opinion of the Committee:**

**1. Major unmet needs of children and youth in Montana are:**

**a. General Needs**

Continuation of projects listed under accomplishments above

Selective recruitment of personnel for services in all areas serving children and youth with special emphasis on assisting young people to choose the work in which they will find satisfaction

Specialized training of above personnel recognizing the specific problems associated with the culture and economy of Montana

Development of curriculums for above specialized training in Montana's institutions of higher learning insofar as Montana is able to provide them



Parents, in cooperation with schools interested in their children, may in groups such as this Mothers' Club of the Apgar Rural School, improve conditions to meet the needs of the youth of Montana.

Cooperation in regional education compacts in providing opportunities for Montana youth to secure professional education, especially in medicine, dentistry, public health and veterinary science, or other professional fields not provided for in Montana's higher educational institutions

Increased knowledge and understanding by officials and professional workers of social problems contributing to conditions affecting the lives of children

Increased attention to conditions that lead to poverty and neglect of children (i. e. gambling, alcoholism, mental and moral inadequacy)

Adult education extending into older age groups to help people understand their own needs and problems as well as those of children

Expansion of adult education programs to include general as well as vocational education

Coordination of effort to eliminate intolerance wherever it exists

Continued and more extensive modernization of youth programs by religious groups

Provision of spiritual guidance and counsel in all State institutions

Improvement and expansion of parent education programs

Continued coordination of work for all groups concerned with the welfare of children

Provisions for community understanding and support of programs for children, including legislation and financial appropriations

Provisions for lay and professional representation on boards, particularly those dealing with programs that affect children

**b. Health Needs:**

Complete coverage of the State with full-time public health departments adequately staffed and financed

Coordination and careful planning of public health programs on a continuing basis

Survey and study by all citizens of health facilities now existing, comparing these with recommended facilities, determining needs and making plans for improvement

Organization of all local health boards under 1945 permissive legislation

Expansion and intensification of public health education to include citizen appreciation of the contributions of preventive programs

Extension of tuberculosis control program to include improvement in case-finding; better enforcement of laws, rules and regulations pertaining to tuberculosis; extension of legislation to meet needs of tuberculosis control program; more hospital and sanatorium beds; more adequate case supervision when patients with tuberculosis must remain at home; more complete follow-up of contacts to active tuberculosis

Continued in-service education of professional health workers

More vigorous and selective recruitment of professional health personnel

Continued study to lower infant and maternal death rate  
Improvement of health programs and development of such when none exist

Improvement of health instruction in the schools so that it is more meaningful and so that it will provide experience opportunities

Continued emphasis on improved teacher training in health

Extension of sanitation programs on local levels including attention to summer and recreational camps, swimming pools and bathing beaches

Improvement and development of housing with relation to health conditions

Expansion of cerebral palsy day schools and treatment centers

Establishment of branch laboratories

Construction of more hospitals and health centers in rural areas

Continued cooperative planning of all groups and agencies interested in, or working in the field of health

Extension of rheumatic fever program

Extension into all areas of the State of improved medical and hospital care of the indigent

Extension of facilities for improved dental health

Study of causes of accidents with the development of aggressive programs for prevention

Improvement and expansion of local health planning committees

Establishment of program for aged including chronic disease control

Inspection and licensing of child care centers

Development of standards and techniques for licensing practical nurses

Provision of mandatory fire regulations within a specified agency to provide modern fire and safety controls in all places where children and youth congregate

Modernization of admission procedures for the Montana State Hospitals at Warm Springs and Galen and the Montana State Training School at Boulder

Provision of special services in connection with an already existing institution for epileptics who cannot be kept in their own communities

c. **Education Needs:**

Improvement of curriculum in teacher training institutions focusing on needs of children; community understanding; ability to make education functional; to respect the spiritual values of life

Organization in one of the teacher training institutions of curriculums to train teachers for (1) sight-saving classes; (2) classes for the hard-of-hearing; (3) educational services for delicate and home-bound children; (4) special "remedial" services to slow learners and children with reading and other subject disabilities; (5) "gifted" children; (6) crippled and physically handicapped children; (7) children with speech disorders; (8) visiting teachers; and any other special education needs peculiar to the children in Montana



Play schools, as this one in Corvallis conducted by Vocational homemaking students, contribute to the wholesome development of children and to the growth of Future Homemakers as citizens and parents.

Improvement of all schools from the standpoint of physical facilities to meet growing needs

Further provision for vocational guidance, training and placement to meet individual needs and the basis of cultural, vocational and citizenship development

Provision of trained specialists to meet the needs of children with physical, educational, language, and emotional handicaps, including the exceptional child

More adequate utilization of community resources, individuals and techniques in how to study, play and work together

Increased funds for the vocational rehabilitation of the handicapped including the home-bound and severely disabled for case-work services, maintenance in needy cases, physical restorations, education, rehabilitation centers and other projects

Provision for adequate appropriations to meet educational needs on both local and state levels

Education for parenthood to include more than home-making courses and to be provided for all young people beginning in early childhood

Appreciation that the family is the basic unit of a democratic society

More vigorous and selective recruitment of teachers and other personnel who are alert to the needs of children and are well qualified

Provision of practical educational programs in state institutions to meet the needs of the individual children custodialized there

Recognition of need for developing cultural appreciation, self-assurance and the ability to communicate, in all education including vocational education

Development of a Vocational School at a unit of the University of Montana to provide training for students not primarily interested in academic education

Financial support for establishment of kindergartens

Better practices of child management at home and in schools through a better understanding of the normal growth and development of children

Participation in curriculum planning by community representatives and school authorities since a community can be no better than the standards it sets for itself

Expansion of mental health facilities in the school

Improved planning for education of children living in isolated areas including consideration for teacher welfare

Gearing of education to develop in children the ability to assume responsibility for good citizenship

Improvement and expansion of 4-H programs through more extensive and intensive training of leaders and retention of leaders over a period of years

Expansion of the program of the Extension Service to include more pre-parental and parental education

Expansion of Boys' and Girls' State program

Provision for an educational system that will integrate the "special" or exceptional child into the general population except in extreme cases where institutional care offers him best security

Re-evaluation of education dignifying vocational education as an essential contribution to society

Expansion of the Montana Institute of the Arts

d. **Social Service Needs:**

Improve legislation safeguarding the welfare of children

Further improvement of adoption laws

Legislation establishing a receiving, study, and treatment center for children at the Montana State Orphan's Home, replacing its present custodial function

Legislation requiring training and qualification of all persons dealing with children

Legislation to secure increased appropriations to provide better qualified personnel and services in child-caring institutions

Safeguarding children in juvenile court proceedings; careful study of findings presented by the Juvenile Commission; provision for trained probation officers, social workers and visiting teachers to aid in prevention of juvenile delinquency

Better provision for preventive services to alleviate the need of costly treatment programs in so far as possible

Enforcement of laws protecting children against child labor

Elimination of discriminatory legislation relating to Indians and other minority groups

Provisions of suitable detention facilities for children pending study, court hearing and transfer to institutions, if necessary

Gearing education to develop in children the ability to assume their responsibility as good citizens

Establishment of a central research agency to study statistics of juvenile court cases for the purpose of the alleviation of conditions causing these problems

Improved education of lawyers and judges concerning needs of children and youth

Consultation of specialists in drafting of laws relating to children

Research into problems of transient youths

Research into methods of improvement of Juvenile District Court procedure

Improvement of child labor laws of Montana in the interests of children including rights of rural children

Development of means for meeting religious needs of families living in isolated areas

Research into causes as to why only about 50% of Montana youths are reached by churches

Development of plans to alleviate above problems as they are uncovered

Improvement of enforcement of liquor laws as they affect children

Promotion of more wholesome advertising

Improvement of movies and literature offered for children and youth

More vigorous and selective recruitment of personnel working with children

Improvement of services in state custodial institutions

Encouragement of the establishment of "Alcoholic Anonymous" group in more areas in the state

e. Recreation needs

Development of community programs extending recreational opportunities for children and their families in both urban and rural communities

Legislation at State level with adequate appropriations for needed promotional work to meet recreational needs

Provision of camping facilities on a state-wide basis to meet educational, cultural, social, moral and spiritual needs

Encouragement of more wholesome use of leisure time to develop hobbies, avocations and appreciations that will carry over into adult life

Encouragement of young people through participation to accept their places in the home and community thus assuming responsibility commensurate with their age and ability

Developing and financing facilities to provide opportunities for school children to develop appreciations through attendance at Community Concerts and other creative and artistic programs

f. Employment needs

Provision of adequate vocational training in schools and state-controlled institutions to include part-time employment during training

Provision of greater opportunities for employment

Provision of better placement facilities for youths

Provision for trained counselors in job placing and job selecting programs

Provision for protection of children from exploitation in premature and harmful labor

### 3 *Plans*

#### A. Plan for follow-up structure and program

The members of the Commission believe that in the short time in which they have been working, real values have been apparent in the understanding made possible by the deliberations of the committee as a whole and by the study necessary to produce this report.

Several immediate possibilities exist which will promote a plan for follow-up. In two counties, Custer at Miles City and Lewis and Clark at Helena, county organizations of the White House Conference on Children and Youth have been set up.

In Great Falls, the Cascade County Community Council will promote a similar organization as soon as the Council reorganizes its autumn program.

The possibility for permanent organization at state and local levels depends largely upon the interest and enthusiasm of the members of the Commission. The present trend seems to favor a continuing organization.

Members of the Committee will interpret this report to their communities on the basis of local needs. Representatives of the Committee who will attend the Midcentury Conference on Children and Youth in Washington will assist people throughout Montana to analyze, interpret, and define problems of children and youth, not only as they affect Montana, but as they affect the Nation as a whole. No child in America is safe until conditions that jeopardize the safety of every child have been alleviated.

It is the consensus of opinion of this Study Committee that when the representatives of Montana at the 1950 Conference in Washington return and report to the people and when this report is disseminated throughout the State, organization on both local and state levels will result.

Report submitted by Study Commission.

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The citizens of tomorrow are the children of today.





